



Fair Water Futures Programme

External evaluation summary: Phase I

Background to the project

The project 'Unahika wa Maji' set out to improve water resource management in Tanzania by using Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM). Community-level activities were implemented across ten sites in Tanzania, with the intention of reaching 240,000 people with improved levels of water security. The project intended to raise the voice of marginalised water users by increasing their capability to express their views and to demand their rights and entitlements. The performance of government agencies in responding were tracked to identify bottlenecks and areas where improvements in performance could be made. Advocacy material drawn from this evidence was produced and targeted to improve sector-wide performance on water resource management (WRM).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Project leads: Water Witness International, Shahidi wa Maji | Duration: April 2013 – March 2016 (3 years) | Total budget: £250,000 Funded by DFID UK |
|---|---|---|

Achievements...

The project made important contributions to raising the profile of WRM, both within and outside the water sector. It highlighted specific, systemic challenges facing WRM processes, showcased the impacts these are having on communities using insights from case studies, and built the capacity of civil society groups to positively influence the sector. This is likely to contribute to increased funding allocations to WRM in future.

Few people would have predicted that such a short-term advocacy project would have been able to contribute to tangible improvements in water security within only three years; the efforts that have been put in to achieve these results must be commended.

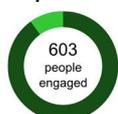
Oxford Policy Management (External Evaluator)

The project has sent shockwaves through the sector; particularly by highlighting the funding shortfalls facing the work of water resource management.

Secretariat, Donor Partner Group on Water

...at community-level

Community education on water resource rights, obligations and institutional responsibilities



90% reported improved awareness of water resource rights, obligations and institutional responsibilities

Community members volunteered to become project change agents ('Mashahidi' - water witnesses in Kiswahili)



92% reported having a greater understanding of legal rights, obligations and responsibilities relating to water security, and reported an intention to act on this knowledge

Community action plans



87% of agreed action plans implemented across eight project sites by project end*

Examples of improvements in water security achieved include:

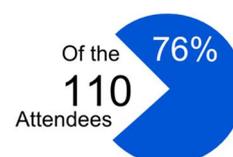
- Reduced dumping of solid waste
- Supporting processes for the construction of a new water treatment facility
- 12 Water User Permits (WUPs) issued
- 2 Water User Associations (WUAs) established/strengthened

Overall the project directly contributed towards increased water security for 159,000 people

Improved water security for communities was delivered at a lower cost than planned: £0.79 per head

...at national and regional level

'Learning-by-doing'



reported newly acquired capability and intent to apply the knowledge gained

A participatory analysis of the **budget allocation, expenditure flows** and **staffing levels** within the Ministry of Water & Irrigation was undertaken in 2014

This analysis clearly highlighted the staffing and funding shortfalls facing Basin Water Boards (BWBs)

The work led to a Ministerial commitment to review water permitting and pollution control processes nationally.



*Activities in two out of the ten project sites were put on hold pending additional funding under Phase II.

Findings from the case studies showing important insights into the specific challenges relating to WRM processes were communicated by:



Presentations at the Joint Water Sector Review (JWSR) in 2014 and 2015



TV spots



Radio dramas

To share the approach and the lessons-learned a **project handbook** was produced and shared at a **regional learning event**



This event was attended by 31 Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) practitioners from 8 African countries. Interest and demand for using the approach is significant with 53 organisations requesting training on the approach.

Challenges

Tight time-frame



Limited funds



Limited staffing (only 2 full time personnel)



Motivation of Mashahidi



Slow response from some government authorities



In terms of external factors beyond the project's control:



The presidential elections in Oct 2015 caused delays. For example, community engagement was stopped during campaigning periods, and the production of TV spots and radio dramas were delayed.

The availability of Basin Water Board and National Environmental Management Council staff and staff turnover within donors and the project's regional partners posed some challenge in regards to sector engagement



The project's full contribution is not yet visible in some logframe indicators at impact and outcome level. Advocacy work often requires long-term engagement to embed and sustain impacts, which posed challenges in setting impact-level indicators for advocacy work, given the extensive contextual factors affecting sector performance

Recommendations...

...for immediate action (within 6 months):

- ◆ Draw together policy guidance targeted at the upcoming water legislation reform
- ◆ Update case study bulletins
- ◆ Capture practical lessons from project implementation and management

...for future work on SAM in ongoing projects in Tanzania and Zambia:

- ◆ Draw up a detailed theory of change (TOC) to more clearly illustrate and communicate the design
- ◆ At design stage, the political risks to project delivery should be more thoroughly assessed
- ◆ At design stage, ensure sufficient resourcing for on-going liaison and joint planning with government and donors
- ◆ Secure sufficient funding for recruiting and retaining a large enough team of adequately experienced staff
- ◆ Provide additional training and adequate resources and time to support monitoring and evaluations (M&E) and learning
- ◆ Provide more structured support and advice for Mashahidi along with more regular engagement
- ◆ Sufficient funding should be secured to allow a greater number of core team members (TAWASANET) to be involved

...for promoting a SAM approach in future:

- ◆ Given the beneficial results seen from this project, both at community and national level, and the regional and global interest in the approach, it is recommended that social accountability work within the WRM sector be continued and strengthened
- ◆ It is recommended that a higher level of longer-term funding be made available to support the tenacity required for successful community engagement and government advocacy
- ◆ Donors involved in the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) should collaborate more closely with social accountability initiatives
- ◆ To allow the approach to be adjusted for use in other countries, it is recommended to carry out detailed political economy analysis, and assessments of partner needs and capability

The Final Evaluation of the Fair Water Futures Project (Uhakika wa Maji) in Tanzania was carried out by Oxford Policy Management. The executive summary and full report can be viewed at:

<http://waterwitness.org/fair-water-futures>